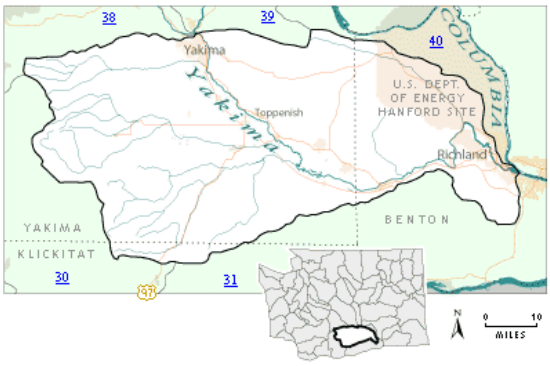
Lower Yakima Basin - WRIA #37

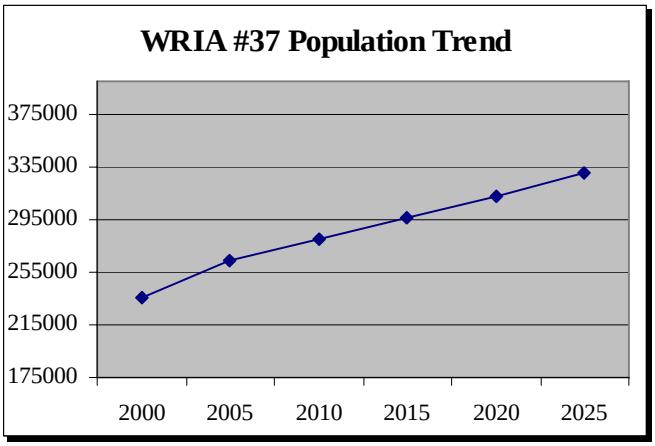


Watershed Description

WRIA #37 is a 1,862,269-acre watershed. The majority of the watershed is in the Columbia Basin ecoregion, with a smaller portion in the Eastern Cascade Slopes. Average annual rainfall varies from over 80 inches in the higher elevations to less than 10 inches at Kennewick. The upper basin is a series of anticlinal ridges and synclinal valleys. The lower basin was formed primarily through the flooding of Lake Missoula. Native vegetation consists of big sagebrush/bluebunch wheatgrass associations in the desert lowlands and Ponderosa pine and Doug-fir in the higher elevations.

Population

There are approximately 250,089 people living in the Lower Yakima Basin. The primary population centers are Yakima, Sunnyside, and Toppenish. The majority of people live in unincorporated areas. The population graph reflects the combined projected population of those counties located within the watershed (Office of Financial Management population projections).



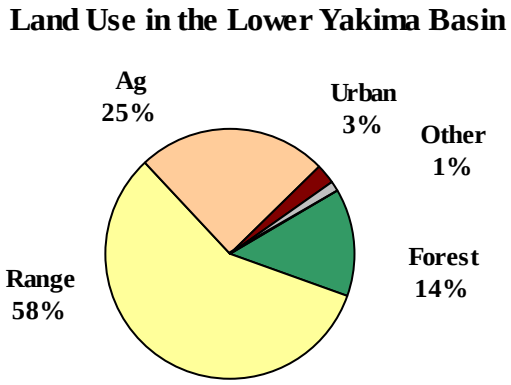
Counties	% of basin
Yakima	74%
Benton	24%
Klickitat	2%

Tribal Reservation Lands in WRIA #37
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation

Land ownership for WRIA #37 includes federal, state, local, tribal, and private lands. Data was derived from the Public Lands Survey by Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Land Ownership	Acres	Proportion
Federal	222,621	11.9%
State	78,449	4.2%
Local	903	<.1%
Tribal	887,918	47.7%
Private	672,376	36.1%

Land use in the Lower Yakima Basin is mainly range, agriculture, and forestry related uses. The general type of known land-use activities[1] within the watershed is graphed according to the percentage of its occurrence.



[1] Category "other" may include perennial ice/snow, bare rock/sand/clay, quarries/strip mines/gravel pits, transitional, barren, and/or wetland areas.

The primary towns and cities in WRIA #37 include Yakima, Sunnyside, Moxee, Toppenish, Grandview, Union Gap, and Prosser.

Legislative and Congressional Districts

To determine your region's legislative or congressional district, see:

http://www1.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx

To determine **Latitude/Longitude coordinates,** see:

http://www.topozone.com/

(Make sure you set the button on the bottom of the page to D/M/S - hold the cursor over a spot on the map and the coordinates show at the bottom of the screen.)

Several federal programs refer to watersheds according to their Hydrological Unit Code (HUC). To learn more about your watershed and determine which **HUC** your town or county is located in, see:

http://water.usgs.gov/wsc/

Water Quality

Water Quality Assessment

The statewide Water Quality Assessment categorizes waterbody segments that have water quality data available. The Simple Query Tool and interactive mapping tool allow you to search for specific categories, water bodies, pollutant parameters and other information, in whatever combination you choose. **WRIA #37** has ninety-three (93) known Category 5 (impaired) water bodies.

To view the Water Quality Assessment, use the Simple Query Tool.

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wats/WATSQBEHome.asp

To view the Water Quality Assessment by Category, choose the Category (1 – 5) you are interested in from the drop down box. To view it by Water Resource Inventory Resource Area (WRIA), choose the WRIA number you are interested in from the drop down box.

Use the Interactive Mapping Tool to see a graphic representation of the Water Quality Assessment. This is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application that helps you find waters you are interested in and information about problems in that water body.

http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/wqawa/viewer.htm

Domestic Water Supply

WRIA #37 has several community water systems that use surface water sources. For further information regarding water supplies, see:

http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm

Salmonid Stock Status

Good water quality is important to help salmon survive and thrive. To find out which salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered in a region, see:

http://www.governor.wa.gov/gsro/regions/map.htm

Air Quality

Water quality can be affected by air quality; for example, windblown dust from construction sites or bare, dry agricultural lands, especially fallow fields, may be transported to waterways. For information about air quality, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/Windblown_dust_information.htm

TMDLs and Other Watershed-Based Plans

For information about Total Maximum Daily Loads (**TMDLs**) in your area, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/tmdl/

To learn more about **watershed planning** in Washington State, see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/watershed/index.html

For **funding applicants,** other useful links can be found at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/links.html